Party Ideas Overtime:

Late 1800’s (1865-1900):

Republicans: social Darwinism, imperialism, laissez faire, anti slavery, early civil rights, half breeds and stalwarts, big business, punish south, high tariffs, want to be on gold standard

Democrats: racist, reform, redeemers, Jim Crow, new south, boss rule and appealing to immigrants, political machines, rise of labor unions, want to go off gold standards, government regulation to stop captains of industry

1900-1940:

Republicans: trickle down, laissez faire, favor business, high protective tariff, rugged individualism (Hoover and the New Deal)

Democrats: government intervention in business and economics, 1936 election of FDR historic switch (African Americans enter party), minorities, labor gains under New Deal, trust busting, Keynesian economics

1950’s-Present:

Republicans: lower taxes, less government, Eisenhower- containment, brinkmanship, Nixon- détente, strong military industrial complex and federal funding, John Foster Dulles, Moral Majority

Democrats: JFK and LBJ- tax cuts, civil rights, war on poverty, Keynesian economics, more government spending to fund social programs (which requires higher taxing), oppose foreign affairs (anti Vietnam), New Left and Counter Culture, Beat generation

Important Elections:

1824: breakdown of caucus system, universal white male suffrage, corrupt bargain, campaigning, John Quincy Adams beats Jackson

1860: Lincoln vs the split democratic party (Douglas, Breckenridge, Bell), led to the secession of South Carolina

1877: corrupt bargain number two, compromise of 1877: Hayes wins presidency and promises to remove military presence from the south, thus ending reconstruction because no federal enforcement of laws

1896: McKinley (R) vs Williams Jennings Bryan (D), cross of gold speech by Bryan, populists merge with democrats

1901: Teddy Roosevelt inherits presidency because McKinley is shot

~1901-1908: progressive era- reform movements (social and political), trust busting~

1912: Wilson (D) vs Taft (R), Roosevelt (Progressive/ Bull Moose), Debs (Socialist)

Wilson ran on neutrality promise, then brought us into war

1920: Harding (R), “return to normalcy,” isolationist, less reforms, booming economy (shifting wartime to peacetime), nativism (red scare)

1928: Hoover (R) vs Al Smith (D)

Smith was a catholic and that dominated the campaign, Hoover won and then we entered the depression

1932: FDR (D) vs Hoover (R)

Easy victory for FDR, platform was to reduce spending, which he did not do

1936: FDR (D) vs Landon (R)

Landslide victory for FDR, historic switch

1948: Truman (D) vs Dewey (R) vs (Henry) Wallace (New Progressive) vs Thurmond (Dixiecrat)

Emergence of dixiecrats who were anti civil rights, Truman wins with a civil rights platform in a major upset

1960: JFK (D) vs Nixon (R), debates were televised

1964: LBJ (D) vs Goldwater (R)

Goldwater wanted to increase the use of nuclear weapons and get rid of social security; LBJ ran on a social reform platform as a candidate of peace and won a decisive victory

1968: Nixon (R) vs Humphrey (D) vs Wallace (Independent)

Humphrey runs because LBJ decides not to run for reelection, Wallace is against civil rights and a segregationist, Nixon appealed to the silent majority and ran on “peace with honor”

1972: Nixon (R) vs McGovern (D), Nixon wins but then resigns and so does his VP and Ford inherits the presidency

1984: Reagan (R) vs Mondale (D), democrats nominated a woman VP

2000: W Bush (R) vs Gore (D), issue of Florida’s electoral votes